

GO WILD IN  
TASMANIA

 NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

# TRAVELER

BEST  
OF THE  
WORLD

25 TRIPS TO TAKE IN 2020

The Colorado River  
snakes through the  
Grand Canyon.

AMAZING ADVENTURES,  
NEW DISCOVERIES, COOL CITIES,  
AND NATURAL WONDERS

# BEST LIST

## NEW GREEN HOTELS



► From tree planting to upcycling, sustainability improves the stay at these 21 eco-savvy properties around the world



As the scope of sustainable travel has grown, remote ecolodges have inspired new ways to tread lightly and care for local communities and the environment. The paradigm now embraces geothermal energy, upcycled furniture, and sourcing food directly from farms—initiatives found in lodgings that range from safari camps to urban hot spots.

Big players in the hospitality world, such as Hilton Hotels & Resorts, are catching up to pioneers like the award-winning Cayuga Collection, often using their size to sway guests and staff to focus on responsible travel. Whether you're headed to the backcountry or the big city, these new accommodations offer overnights that put sustainability in style.

—Elaine Glusac

Nature envelops guests at Cambodia's Shinta Mani Wild tented lodge.

# BEST LIST NEW GREEN HOTELS

## ALABAMA

●● Designed to LEED Gold specs, Hilton's **Lodge at Gulf State Park** has native plants, wildlife-sensitive lighting, and low-profile buildings set back from the shore to allow for dune movement. Free loaner bikes invite exploration of the 6,500-acre state park.

## AUSTRALIA

●● Offshore reefs and 63 beaches draw divers and surfers to car-free Rottneest Island, where the **Discovery Rottneest Island** resort has introduced 83 "eco-tents" linked by boardwalks to reduce erosion—and protect the native, cat-size quokka.

## BARBADOS

●● A Caribbean hideaway, **ECO Lifestyle + Lodge** offers escapism with a conscience. Owners Kyle and Maryam Taylor keep the vibe serene and sustainable with solar-heated water, handwoven hammocks, upcycled furniture, and yoga on the deck.

## BOLIVIA

●● **Kachi Lodge's** six guest pods and one dining pod allow travelers to stay in Bolivia's Salar de Uyuni salt flats with little effect on the environs. Solar-powered, with a closed loop water recycling system, the camp arranges treks to volcanoes and visits to llama herders.

## CALIFORNIA

●● Aiming for LEED Silver certification, **Hotel Cerro** in San Luis Obispo bans single-use plastics and provides reusable water bottles and filling stations. The hotel's Edible Gardens, where guests can forage, grow organic veggies for Brasserie SLO.

## CAMBODIA

●● Designer Bill Bensley constructed **Shinta Mani Wild** on the border of Southern Cardamom National Park in west Cambodia to help protect the surrounding 860-acre forest. A National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World, the complex features 15 luxe tents cantilevered over a jungle river, each sporting a theme—National Geographic is one—and an outdoor bathtub. Guests can arrive via zipline and fill their visits with picnicking by waterfalls, hiking, and helping rangers check wilderness cameras that deter poaching. The staff of 120 includes former poachers and loggers.

## CANADA

●● The floating, Haida-owned **Ocean House** resort, on pristine Haida Gwaii in British Columbia, immerses guests in nature and Haida culture. Artists often headline multnight packages that feature tours of traditional villages and kayak excursions.

## COLOMBIA

●● Built of bamboo and earthen blocks produced on-site, and provisioned by organic kitchen gardens, 18-room **Cannúa** presides over 27 acres (22 are protected forest) in biodiverse Antioquia. Visit coffee farms, hike ancient trails, and spot wild parrots.

## ENGLAND

●● Six townhomes in London's Paddington district have been converted into the 89-room **Inhabit**. Nordic minimalism sets the scene for wellness (think Peloton bikes and meditation), plant-based foods, and furniture made by a social-enterprise factory.

## HAWAII

●● A \$35 million overhaul has updated the 1970 498-room **Waikiki Beachcomber by Outrigger**, filling its walls with local art. A video demonstrates how guests can protect coral reefs and a shop sells only reef-safe sunscreen.

## INDONESIA

●● Set amid six islands in the Anambas archipelago, **Bawah Reserve** lodges travelers in 35 overwater bungalows and bamboo-walled suites. Discover a dozen beaches, plus dive sites that offer access to reefs in the surrounding marine preserve.

## ITALY

●● A collection of chalets and lodges overlooking the Dolomite Mountains, **Adler Lodge Ritten** takes design inspiration from nearby alpine dwellings. Guests explore the area on e-bikes or skis, then relax in one of the spa's saunas, tucked into the forest.



Native plants and recycled wood fill the lobby of 1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge.

The bar at Rwanda's new Magashi Camp rocks indigenous Imigongo art motifs.



#### NAMIBIA

●● Supporting a clinic for injured elephants and rhinos, **Sonop Lodge**, in the southern Namib Desert, has plush tents perched on stilts for low impact. Snap photos of leopards in a private reserve, practice yoga, and plot stars in the clear night skies.

#### NEPAL

● The **Babai River Camp** is set up on demand, introducing safari-style lodging to Bardia National Park, where rhinos, elephants, and endangered Bengal tigers (56 at last count) roam. Guests can help deliver water filters to locals protecting the park.

#### NEW YORK

● **1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge** frames views of Manhattan from the foot of its historic namesake. The design channels nature with a green wall in the lobby and moss planters in the guest rooms. Behind the scenes: efficient heating/cooling and rainwater reclamation.

#### NEW ZEALAND

●● Nature's forces drove Nisha Duncan and Evan Chadwick to repurpose a century-old home damaged during the earthquakes that rocked Christchurch in 2010 and 2011. Within walking distance of downtown, the eight-room **Eco Villa** is outfitted with benches, tables, and headboards made from timber in the original house. The couple also used salvaged bricks in the landscaping and bought bicycles to encourage eco-friendly exploration. Start the day with housemade coconut yogurt or freshly toasted muesli paired with juice from just-plucked organic produce.

#### PANAMA

●● Just eight beachfront casitas and one villa share **Isla Palenque**, a 400-acre private island resort in the Pacific's Gulf of Chiriqui. Built sustainably and staffed by locals, this National Geographic Unique Lodge invites each guest to plant a tree.

#### PUERTO RICO

● Replacing a resort on Vieques island destroyed by 2017's Hurricane Maria, **Finca Victoria** offers 11 guest rooms, including two treehouses, decorated in bohemian style. The property runs on solar energy and sources ingredients from local farmers.

#### RWANDA

● Partnering with African Parks and Rwanda's Development Board, Wilderness Safaris' **Magashi Camp** aims to make the 250,000-acre Akagera National Park economically self-sufficient. The six solar-powered tents frame lake, savanna, and wildlife views.

#### SÃO TOMÉ & PRÍNCIPE

●● **Sundy Praia's** 15 tented villas sit on Príncipe Island, a UNESCO biosphere reserve. Explore rainforests and reefs from this National Geographic Unique Lodge where guests can recycle glass into jewelry and take jaunts in traditional local canoes called pirogues.

#### SWITZERLAND

●● The heating mechanism for **Valsana Hotel & Appartements** in the alpine village of Arosa? An "ice battery" that stores geothermal energy. Check in to the hotel, built partly with recycled materials, to check out the skiing, hiking, and lake swimming.